Nan of Music Mountain FRANK H. SPEARMAN

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DE SPAIN PERSISTS IN HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH NAN MORGAN-HE FALLS INTO A TRAP LAID BY THE GANG AND FACES IMMEDIATE DEATH

The region around Sleepy Cat, a railroad division town in the Rocky Mountain mining country, is infested with stage robbers, cuttle rustlers and gunmen. The worst of these belong to the Morgan gang, whose hang-out is in Morgan gap, a fertile valley about 20 miles from Sleepy Cat, and near Calabasus, a point where the herses are changed on the singe line from the Thief River mines to the raffrond. Jeffries, superintendent of the Mountain division, decides to break up the depredations of the bad men and appoints Henry de Spain general manager of the stage line, with John LeFevre and Bob Scott, an Indian, as his assistants. They make Calabasas their headquarters, Trouble starts at once. The principal bad men are Sasseen, Legan, Deaf Sandusky and Gale Morgan. De Spain foolishly becomes smirten with pretty Nan Morgan, Gale's cousin, but she ignores his over tures. When this installment opens De Spain and his aids are trying to pick a fight with Logan and Sandusky in a gumbling house.

CHAPTER VII-Continued.

--5--on De Spain. He accutinized for a time either on the stages to and from whole mouthful to speak, so fearful suspicious instant the burning eyes and. Calabasas or in the saidle toward Morthe rest marts her on the cheek. While gam's gap, looking for Nan. he did so-comprehension daysuing on Killing time in this way, after a I don't know. But from what she says. Spain. "That Medicine Bend duck doorway, "You'd never be comin"

cent," retarted Ite Spain, matching in Spain nodded affirmatively as he dis-

"Maybe I can do something for you," hors. Left or had pre-capted the best lowed the manager into the office, and arranged themselves every inshiftly. "I'm at your service."

awole to the situation and rose from company hay, was Nan Morgan's, his case. He made his way through the crowd around the disputants and manded De Spain coldly. brusquely directed the dealer to close the game. While Sandusky was eash- eyed De Spain very carefully to see ing in Tenson took Logan aside. What how the wind was setting, for the Tenison said was not audible, but it pony's presence confessed an infracsufficed to quiet the little fellow. The tion of a very particular rule. only thing further to be settled was as see," he began, cocking at his strict to who should leave the room last, boss from below his visoriess cap a sence neither party was willing to go questioning Scotch eye, "I like to keep figst. Tenken, after a formal con- on good terms with that Morgan gang, ference with Lefever and Legan, of Some of them can be very unly. That ferred to take Sandusky and Legan by little pony is Nan Morgan's." st private stairway to the billiard room, while Lefever took De Spain and Scott out by way of the main entrance. This was arranged, and when the railroad men reached the street rain had ceased

Scott warned De Spain to keep within doors, and De Spain promised to do so. But when they left him he startest out at once to see whether he could mut, by some happy chance, encounter

CHAPTER VIII.

A Cup of Coffee.

He was willing, after a long and bootless search, to confess to himself that he would rather see Nan Morgan for one minute than all women else in the world for a lifetime. The other incidents of the evening would have given any ordinary man enough food for reflection-indeed they did force De Spain to realize that his life would hang by a slender thread while he remained at Sleepy Cat and continued to brave the rulers of the sinks.

But this danger, which after all was a portion of his responsibility in freeing his stages from the depredations of the Calabasas gang, failed to make on him the moving impression of one moment of Nan Morgan's eyes. There was in the whole world nothing he wanted to do so much as in some way to please her-yet it seemed his III luck to get continually deeper into her bad graces. Every day that he rode across the open country, his eyes turned to the far range and to Music mountain. The rounded, distant, Im- this afternoon." mutable peak-majestic as the sun, cold as the stars, shrouding in its unknown fastnesses the mysteries of the ages and the secrets of time-meant | Cat?" to him now this mountain girl whom its solitude sheltered and to whom his fully. "The girl's been sick." 41. - this continually came back.

Within two weeks he became desperate. He rode the gap trail from Logan pushed back his chair. As he Sleepy Car again and again for miles turned his legs from under the table and miles in the effort to encounter to rise, a hand rested on his shoulder, her. He came to know every ridge He looked up and saw the brown and hollow on it, every patch and face and feeble smile of Scott. Legan stone between the lava beds and the with his nearest foot kicked Samhicky. But river. And in spile of the coun-The big fellow looked up and around. sels of his associates, who warned him Either by chance or in following the to becare of traps, sepont, under sound of the last voice, his glance fell one pretext or another much of the

hier-his enormous hands, forsaiding trunless ride, his persistence was one and the way she coughs, I'm thinking the price of chips with which both had day most unexpectedly rewarded. He it was a touch of this pence The a nominant busy, flattened out, and ridden through a hot sun from that's going around so much labely cam on the fare table. Local Sleepy Cut to Calabases, where he had sir rise. Scott's hand rested heave an appointmedr to meet Scott and Levby on fain. "What's the row?" do fover at five o'clock. When De Spain arrangements to meet the occasion non d Sandusky in the queer tone concled the Calabasas barn, McAlpin, presenting Itself. Circumdon't man. Locan pointed at De like born bees, was standing in the from Sleepy Cut in the saddle!" ex-"With a main, Logan; not with a claimed McAlpin incredulously. De less than an hour. mounted. "Hot ride, sir; a het day," commented McAlien as he called a interrupted Sandasky. His eyes ran man to take the larse, unstrapped Deflice a flash around the table. He saw | Spain's coat from the saddle, and fol-

place in the room. He looked up and | The heat was oppressive, and De back at the runn standing now at his Spain unbuckled his cartridge beit, shoulder, and almost between Logan slipped his revolver from the holster, and himself. It was the Indian, Scott, mechanically stuck it taside his trou-Samuraky felt, as his faculties cleared | sers waisthand, hung the heavy belt up under his coat, and, sitting down, stant, that there was no hurry what- called for the stage report and asked ever about lifting his hand; but he whether the new blacksmith had socould not be faced down without a bered up. When McAlpin had given show of resistance, and he concluded him all miner information called for, mark of the very amiable speaker's for this occasion his tongue was De Spain walked with him out into the the best women. "If I can," he added burn to inspect the horses. Passing the very last of the bex-stalls, the the stage comes in," continued De-Do Spain made no answer beyond manager saw in it a peny. He stopped, Spain quietly, "have the two grayskeeping by yes on Sandusky's eyes. This wiry, sleek-looking roan, con-

"What's that horse doing here?" de-

Before answering, the barn boss

"What's her horse doing here?" sked De Spain.

McAlpin made even the most incon equential approaches to a statement



"Hot Day, Sir; Hot Ride."

with a keen and questioning glance "The girl went up to the Cat on the early stage, sir. She's coming back

"What is she riding away over here to Calabasas for to take the stage, instead of riding straight into Sleepy

Once more McAlpin eyed him care

confided the Scotch boss with growing confidence. "But she's been going up two or three times now to get some medicine from Doc Torpy-that's the way of it. There's a nice girl, sirin a bunch o' ruffians, I know-though old Duke, she lives with, he nin't a half-bad man except for too many cards. I used to work for him but I call her a nice girl. Do you happen to know her?"

De Spain had long been on guard. "I've spoken with her in a business way ence or twice. I can't really say I know her. Anything sick, Jim? asked De Spain, walking on down the barn and looking at the horses. It was only the second time since he has given him the job that De Spain had called the barn boss "Jim," and Mc Alpin answered with the rising as-or ance of one who realizes he is not right. "Not so much as a sore hoof in either alley, Mr. De Spain. I try to take center of them, sir."

"What are we paying you, Jim!" henvy work at that."

"We'll try to make it thirty-two after this week."

McAlpin touched his cap. "Think ou kindly, sir, I'm sure. It comeligh to live out here, Mr. de Smitt "What did you say," asked De St. indifferently, "had been the matter and Nan Margan?" Her name securit was he of betraying interest.

"Why, I really didn't say, sir. And

His listener had already now all second at last to favor him, and he looked at his watch. The down angebringing Nan back would be our in

"Jira," he said thoughtfully you are doing the right thing in sharing some good will toward the Morrans

"Now, I'm glad you think that, sir." "You know I unintentionally rubbed their backs the wrong way in dragging Sassoon out."

"They're Jealous of their power, I know-very jenious,"

"This seems the chance to show that I have no real animosity my self-toward the outfit."

Since De Spain was not looking at him. McAlpin cocked two keen and curious eyes on the sphinxlike birthface. However, the astute boss, if he wondered, made no comment. "When Lady and Ben-hitched to my own Tenison, or rhearing the last words, tentedly munching at the moment some light wagon. I'll drive her ever to the accolation to the situation and rose from company hav, was Nan Morgan's.

"The very thing," exclusived McAlpin, staring and struggling with his

"In some way I've happened, both times I talked with her, to get in wrong-understand?" McAlpin, with learing wits, nodded more than once, No fault of mine; it just happened o. And she may not at first take kindly to the idea of going with me,"

"But she ought to do it. She will be fired-it's a long dusty ride for a

"No It is, so it is?"

Do Spain looked now shamelessly at als ready-witted aid. "See that her pony is inter when she gots herecan't be ridden. But you'll take good care of him and send him bome in a few days-get it?"

McAlpin bulf closed his eyes, "He'll be so lame it would stagger a cowboy to back him ten feet-and never be hurt a mite, neither. Trust me!"

"If she insists on riding something, or even walking home," continued De-Spain dubiously, for he felt Instinct ly against it. tively that he should have the task of his life to induce Nan to accept any kind of a peace-offering, "I'll ride or walk with her anyway. Can you sleep perception. It was only for the imme here topight, on the hay?"

didn't you know that?"

Spain walked out of doors and looked would have sold for less than a cup reflectively up the Sleepy Cat road, of coffee all his chances for life. Nev-One further refinement in his appeal ertheless, before Morgan had set his for Nan's favor, suggested itself. She back fairly against the door and the would be hungry, possibly faint in the trap was sprung. De Spain had heat and dust, when she arrived. He mapped his fight. returned to McAlpin: "Where can 1

sandwich and a cup of good coffee."

It was four o'clock, and the sun beat | than ought to be hoped for, fiercely on the desert. De Spain walked right nor the left.

Ma it looked no more inviting in son- it was Logan who answered in shrill Puck.

and, true to its traditions, not a living have business that I know of. A being was anywhere to be seen. The friend of ours may have a little, maydoor of the office stood alar. De Spain, be!" Logan, lifting his shoulders with pushing it all the way open, walked in. his laugh, looked toward his compan-No one greeted him as he crossed the lons for an answer to his joke, threshold, and the unsightly room was De Spain's smile appeared unruffled. still bare of furnishings except for the bar, with its two broken mirrors.

De Spain pounded on the bar. His effort to attract attention met with no dusky, grinned: "He won't need any response. He walked to the left end of the bar, lifted the handrall that ! inclosed the space behind it, and jushed open the door between the mirmus no response. Mrs. McAlpin had apparently gone home for a while,

Irritated at the desertion of the the heat of the afternoon, and disap- that his situation could be made worse, pointed at the frustration of his purpose, he walked back to the office. As he lifted the handrail and, passing got two or three friends that want to through, lowered it behind him, he took out his watch to see how soon the "Twenty-seven a week, sir; pretty stage was due. While he held the timepicce in his hand he heard a rapid catter of hoofs approaching the place Thinking it might be Scott and Lefe ver arriving from the south an hour ahead of time, he started toward the front door-which was still open-to great them. Outside, harried footsteps and the door just alread of how





He Called Out-There Was No Response.

and a large man stepping quickly into dusky. the room, confronted De Spain. One of the man's hands rested lightly on the man known as the butcher, asking his right side. De Spain recognized him instantly; the small, drooping taking his eyes off his shifty prey, hend, carried well forward, the keen eyes, the loud-patterned, shabby waist coat proclaimed beyond doubt-Deaf

CHAPTER IX.

The Glass Button.

Even as the big fellow stepped lighty just inside and to the left as Dewell woman, let alone one that has accidental. But before he could speak little fighting crony, Lozan, who now he could return it. made way, as he slopped within to the right of the open door, for the swinging shoulders and rolling stride of Gale Morgan.

Morgan, eying De Spain with insolence, as was his wont, closed the door behind him with a bang. Then he backed his powerful frame significant-

A blind man could have seen the completeness of the snare. An unpleasant feeling flashed across De Spain's measurable part of a second-while "Sleep you on a hair mattress, sir. uncertainty was resolving itself into a You've got a room right here upstairs; rapid certainty. When Gale Morgan ment wasted before the shooting added stepped into the room on the heels With arrangements so begun, De of his two Calabasas friends, De Spain

He did not retreat from where he get a good cup of coffee when the halted at the instant Sandusky entered. His one slender chance was to hug to "Go right down to the inn, sir. It's the men that meant to kill him. Mora new chap running it-a half-witted gan, the nearest, he esteemed the least man from Texas. My wife is cooking dangerous of the three; but to think there off and on. She'll fix you up a to escape both Sandusky and Logan at close quarters was, he knew, more

While Morgan was closing the door, down to the inn unmindful of the heat. De Spain smiled at his visitors: "That In summer rig, with his soft-shirt col- isn't necessary, Morgan-I'm not ready lar turned under, his forearms bare, to run." Morgan only continued to and his thoughts engaged, he made his stare at him. "I need hardly ask," way rapidly on, looking neither to the added De Spain, "whether you fellows

have business with me?" As he approached the weather-beaten He looked to Sandusky for a reply;

shine than it had looked in shadow; falsetto: "No. We don't happen to

> "You'll help him transact it, I suppose?"

Logan, looking again toward San-

help. "Who is your friend?" demanded Do Spain good-naturedly. Logan's glance misled him; it did not refer to Sanrors leading to the back foors. This, dusky. And even as he asked the questoo, was empty. He called out-there tion De Spain heard through the halfopen window at the end of the har the sound of hoofs. Hoping against hope for Lefever, the interruption place, due, he afterward learned, to cheered him. It certainly did not seem

"Well," answered Legan, talking again to his gallery of cronies, "we've got two or three friends that want to gone. Concentrated—only a few see you. They're waiting outside to drops required at an application. \$2 per see what you'll look like in about five minutes-nin't they, Gate?"

Someone was moving within the rear room. De Spain felt hope in every footfall he heard, and the mention of Morgan's name cleared his plan of battle. Before Gale, with an oath, ould blurt out his answer, De Spain ad resolved to fight where he stood, taking Logan first and Morgan as he heald jump in between the two. It ups at the best a hopeless venture scainst Sandusky's first shot, which the Spain knew was almost sure to them. reach a vital spot. But desperate men connect by choosers,

There's no time for seeing me like the present," declared De Spain ignoring Mergen and softreesing his words. to Logan. "Bring your friends in-What are you complaining about Morgen?" he asked, rescuting the stream of abuse that Gale harted at him whenever he could get a word in. "I had my turn at you with a rifle the other day. You've got your turn now. And Let folks step on your feet hereafter; I call it a pretty soft one, too-dun't wone above a same emission if you like, denly of the big fellow.

Sandusky alone through the talk had so this the Sandusky alone through the talk had to this Chreimann aminority, kept an unbroken silence. He was He my bet a few drops of a drop Sondusky had stood motioniess from corn, root and all, lifts right out. the instant he entered the room. His This drug dries at once and simply eyes rested intently on Ive Spain, and shrivels up the corn or callus without at his side the long fingers of his right even irritating the surrounding skin. hand beat a soft fattoo against his . A small bottle of freezene obtained pistol holster. De Spain's question at any drug store will cost very little seemed to arouse him. "What's your but will positively remove every hard name?" he demanded bluntly. His or soft corn or callus from one's voice was heavy and his denfaces was reflected in the strained tone.

"It's on the butt of my gun, San-

"What's that he says?" demanded the question of Logan, but without

Logan raised his voice to repeat the

words and to aid a ribald comment. "You make a good deal of noise," moltered Sandusky, speaking again to

"That ought not to bother you much, Saudusky," shouted De Spain, trying to win a smile from his fact-

"His noise won't bother anybody Spain stood-of the door and faced much longer," just in Legan, whose rehim, the encounter seemed to De Spain | terts overflowed at every interval. But there was no smile even hinted at in a second man appeared in the door, the uncompromising vigilance of Sanway, and this man appeared to be jok- dusky's expressionless face. De Spain ing with a third, behind him. As the discounted the next few minutes farsecond man crossed the thresheld, De enough to feel that Sandusky's first Spain saw Sanducky's high-voiced shot would mean death to him, even if

"I'll tell you. De Spain," continued Logan, "we're going to have a drink with you. Then we're going to prepare you for going back where you come from-with nice flowers."

"I guess you thought you could come out here and run over everybody in the Spanish sinks," interposed Morgan, with every oath he could summon to load his words.

"Keep out, Morgan," exclaimed Lo-

gan testily. "Til do this talking." De Spain continued to banter. "Gentlemen," he said, addressing the three together and realizing that every moa grain of hope, "I am ready to drink when you are."

"He's ready to drink, Tom," reared Morgan in the deaf man's ear.

"I'm ready," announced Sandusky in hollow voice.

Do you believe that De Spain could save his life by surrendering to the gangsters and offering to get out of the neighborhood if they spared him? Would you do it in these circumstances?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Influential Citizen

Mrs. Youngwife-"My busband is a very influential man in politics." Friend—"You don't say!" Mrs. Youngwife-"Yes. George has voted in two presidential elections, and both times it has gone the way George voted."-

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Strong drinks like beer, whiskey, ten and coffee, irritate the kidneys and intitual use touds to weaken mem. Pully backache, with head ache, nervousness, dizzy spells and a rheumatic condition should be taken as a warning of kidney troubie. Cut out, or at least moderate, the stimulant, and use Dosn's Kid er Pills. They are fine for weak tidness: Thousands recommend

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......... LIFT YOUR CORNS OFF WITH FINGERS

How to loosen a tender corn or callus so it lifts out without gain.

on. Sandasky?" he demanded sud- for corns will never again send electric sparks of join through you according

citing up De Spain with his eyes, and called freezone, applied directly upon De Spain not only ached to hear him a tender, aching corn, instantly respeak, but was resolved to make him. Heves sorvaces, and soon the entire

If your druggist hasn't stocked this new drug yet, tell him to get a small bottle of freezone for you from his wholesale drug house .- adv.

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New York state In 1916 had 3,688 infantite paralysis cases with 801

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